Vietnamese American Oral History Project, UC Irvine

Narrator: NGUYEN, CAO HIEP

Interviewer: Shaun Gutierrez

Date: March 7, 2012

Location: Santa Ana, California

Sub-collection: Vietnamese American Experience Winter 2012

Length of Interview: 01:16:14

Field Notes

The interview was conducted in the studio of NGUYEN, CAO HIEP, in his home in Santa Ana. Mr. Nguyen was very accommodating, and very eager to get the interview started. The room was appropriately lit and was filled with various works from the years that have passed. Colors and vivid images occupy the walls and gave for an eclectic atmosphere. We talked about the purpose of the project as he signed consent forms.

NGUYEN, CAO HIEP, was very shy at the beginning. He was very comfortable dressed and donned orange sleeveless coat that foreshadowed his personality. Though at times he had trouble finding the words to say, felt that the substance of what he did say was very much insightful. He we covered many topics and I noticed that some topics he seemed apprehensive to talk about by the way he shifted his posture and changed the tone of his voice. However once we started talking about his art and his passion. I noticed that he was more open and brighter.

at the conclusion of the interview he showed me around his house, and we took a couple pictures of him at his home. He showed me his personality after the interview as I waited for my transportation to arrive. I was lucky enough that he offered me a quick sketch and he expressed his thanks for giving him the opportunity to participating the the VAOHP.